

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 652

By Davis L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mrs. Helen Lane of Crossville.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the accomplishments of those Tennesseans who, during their respective lifetimes, served their fellow citizens with the utmost integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Helen Lane was an exemplary public servant and multi-talented individual who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Crossville, Mrs. Lane was known far and wide for her remarkable ability to forecast the weather by studying the signs of nature; and

WHEREAS, as a young child, Mrs. Lane learned this now disappearing art from her father, Charlie Sherrill. Mr. Sherrill was a farmer and learned to observe the signs of nature when planning his crops for the upcoming year. He passed those lessons on to his daughter and she carried on weather forecasting throughout her estimable life; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lane was always a bit amused and amazed that her weather predictions were of such interest to so many people; former *Crossville Chronicle* publisher Donald Brookhart stated, "She put Crossville on the map"; and

WHEREAS, she began publishing her predictions in her column about Crab Orchard community events in the early 1930s and 1940s and she continued stymy the scientific community with her highly acclaimed and accurate predictions until the mid-1990s; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brookhart was converted into an amazed believer in 1959, when Helen Lane's predictions for a record number of snows in Cumberland County came true; he reported the incredible story to *The Tennessean* and subsequently the story was distributed all over the world by the *Associated Press* and *United Press International*; and

WHEREAS, this gifted lady's talents were an intriguing to millions; she was featured in multiple media outlets including, *Life* magazine, nearly every newspaper in the state, on national news programs, and in a documentary on the Public Broadcasting System; and

WHEREAS, a truly humble lady, Mrs. Lane believed people would eventually tire of her predictions, but that was never the case. In late summer and early fall, reporters never failed to contact Mrs. Lane to write about her observations and weather predictions; and

WHEREAS, her legacy lives on as Mrs. Lane handed down the lessons and intricacies of her art to her daughter, Melinda Lane Hedgecoth; Melinda studied with her mother for years and recorded her mother's last forecast, which promises a cold snap for the Cumberland Plateau in May; and

WHEREAS, this last of Mrs. Lane's many accurate forecasts provides us with the perfect opportunity to reflect on this incredible woman's life; and

WHEREAS, Helen Lane always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; she was the proud parent of sons, James, Charles, and Joe, and daughter Melinda Lane Hedgecoth, and grandmother of three; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lane leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mrs. Helen Lane, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to sustaining the art of weather forecasting that has brought joy and comfort to numerous people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Lane.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.